



# The Canal Zone Philatelist



Vol. 47, No. 1

First Quarter, 2011

Whole No. 178

## New Split Overprint on No. 84

by Richard D. Bates, Jr.

A recently broken-up pane of Scott No. 84 has yielded several copies with ZONE in the CANAL ZONE overprint shifted downward, and split between the bottom of the stamp on which it belongs and the top of the stamp below it. Shown in Fig. 1 is the right side plate number block from that pane. It is an UR pane because the PB6 has a large five-pointed star, which only occurs on UR panes. The placement of the overprint on this block results in copies having the ZONE split (e.g., UR stamp), to nearly split, to merely shifted downward. Though I did not see the entire pane before it was broken up, and no scan or photocopy seems to have been made of it, it appears that



Fig. 1 Star plate block of six with overprint shifted downward so that some copies have ZONE split by perfs

the examples with the split ZONE overprint come primarily from the upper half of the pane, such that approximately 40% may have some degree of split overprint. This pane is different from either of the two panes that gave rise to the CANAL only and ZONE CANAL examples on No. 84, on which the shift is larger and affects all the stamps on each of the panes.

## Red Cross POW Cover

Irwin Gibbs has provided scans of a cover addressed to the International Agency of Prisoners of War in Geneva with an International Committee of the Red Cross return address. The cover has a Corozal postmark dated October 11, 1917, though the year is a bit hard to read. He is curious to know if any member has any additional information about what might have been enclosed or contained in a cover like this.

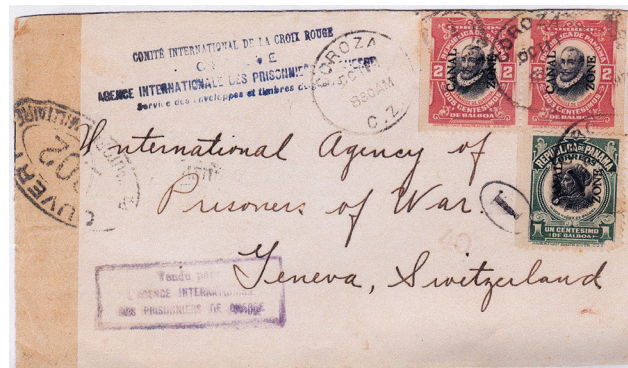


Fig. 1 Front of cover to Geneva



Fig. 2 Back of cover to Geneva

continued on page 8

## In this Issue:

### Lead Articles

- New Split Overprint on No. 84 ..... 1
- Red Cross POW Cover ..... 1, 8

### Articles and Discoveries

- Gerald D. Bliss Revisited ..... 2-4
- Destruction of Canal Zone Stamps ..... 5
- New Monte Lirio Marking ..... 10
- Examples of ZONE CANAL Errors on Cover ..... 10

### Opinions and Editorials

- Opinion: "What is It?" Or "Is it a ... ?" ..... 6-7
- Editorial: On the Value of Publishing Articles ..... 9

### Study Group Business

- CZSG Regional Meeting at Chicagopex 2010 ..... 10
- Secretary's Report ..... 11
- President's Report ..... 11
- AmeriStamp Expo 2011 ..... 12

### Other

- Erratum ..... 2
- Winners ..... 8
- Auctions ..... 8, 9
- Show Schedule ..... 8



## ***The Canal Zone Philatelist***

**A.P.S. Affiliate No. 42**

**Web Page: WWW.CZSG.ORG**

Richard D. Bates, Jr.

Editor

PO Box 40583

Palisades Station

Washington, DC 20016-0583

bates@georgetown.edu

Richard Spielberg

Associate Editor

4535 Via Del Buey

Yorba Linda, CA 92886

Home: (714) 693-3349

rmbspiel@sbcglobal.net

***The Canal Zone Philatelist* (ISSN 0746-004 X) is published quarterly for \$8.00/year, which includes membership in the CZSG, 4112 E Kilmer St., Tucson, AZ 85711.**

Periodical Postage Paid at Tucson, AZ. POSTMASTER: Send address changes and complaints of non-delivery to *The Canal Zone Philatelist*, c/o Secretary Mike Drabik, PO Box 281, Bolton, MA 01740.

Display advertising accepted from CZSG members only at the following rates per insertion:

One column, two inches      \$15.00 or \$40/year if same text

One column, five inches      \$35.00

No larger advertisements are accepted. Remittance must accompany copy. Deadline for ads, first day of Mar., June, Sept., Dec. Copy should be sent to the Editor.

Back issues of the journal, handbooks, and other publications can be ordered from:

CZSG Pub. Office - Richard F. Murphy  
1489 Oakhurst Dr., Mt Pleasant, SC 29466  
richardmurphy167@gmail.com

Articles and information for publication should be sent to the Editor. Scans are preferred for figures of stamps or covers; however enlarged high quality photocopies are sometimes acceptable. Illustrations must show clearly against black backgrounds. If you need help, write or EMAIL the Editor. The author must advise the Editor if the article has been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere.

Copyright 2011

Canal Zone Study Group

### **Erratum**

The whole number printed on the 4th Q 2010 issue of the CZP is incorrect. It should read Whole No. 177, not 176 as is shown. The number on this issue is correct. Please correct it on your copy to avoid confusion in the future. Apologies for the error.

## **Gerald D. Bliss Revisited**

**By Alan P. Bentz**

Gerald D. Bliss had a remarkable impact on Canal Zone philately – especially aerophilately. Much has been written about him over the years, and a stamp has been issued in his honor. This article puts his career into chronological perspective, and introduces some new material.

**Background:** Gerald Bliss was born in Sherman, New York. After graduating from high school, he entered the postal service in his local post office, and was later appointed Assistant Postmaster of Chautauqua County. This, coupled with the fact that his father had been head railway mail clerk between New York and Chicago, made him aware of the rules and regulations of the Post Office Department by the time he went to the Canal Zone.

**Early Years in the Zone:** In December 1905 he was named acting Postmaster at Pedro Miguel, then a laborers' town for "silver employees." Most of the workers were from Jamaica or Barbados. Twice a month West Indies mail arrived with hundreds of postage-due letters to be dispersed at the General Delivery window. The poor families in the Caribbean rarely had the resources to pay the postage. The Universal Postal Union regulations required double deficiency to be paid on international mail, or 10c at that time – equivalent to a pound of stew meat or 2½ one-pound loaves of bread. Gerald Bliss chose a Postage Due handstamp over a regular cancel, because he said, "auditors have a jaundiced attitude towards giving a postmaster credit for canceled stamps"[1]. In anticipation of the semi-monthly arrival of the Royal Mail Steamship line with the mail, the Pedro Miguel Post Office hand-stamped panes of stamps with POSTAGE DUE diagonally across the individual stamps. These are known as the Bliss Postage Due Provisionals. In 1911, Bliss was promoted to become the Culebra Postmaster. Figure 1 depicts him standing next to Tom Cooke on the porch of the Culebra Post Office. As there were no elective offices in the



**Fig. 1 Gerald Bliss at Culebra Post Office in 1912 [2]**



**Fig. 2 Gerald Bliss handing the mail to Major Walter Wynne (1918)**

Commonly used abbreviations

**BEP = Bureau of Engraving & Printing**

**CZ Stamps = Canal Zone Stamps**, by Gilbert N. Plass, Geoffrey Brewster, and Richard H. Salz, The Canal Zone Study Group, 1986

**CZP = The Canal Zone Philatelist**

**Entwistle = The Postal Markings of the Canal Zone, 2nd Edition**, by Lawson P. Entwistle, The Canal Zone Study Group, 1992

**French = Encyclopedia of Plate Varieties on U.S. Bureau-Printed Postage Stamps**, by Loran C. French, Bureau Issues Association, 1979

**Scott = Scott's Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps**, current edition.

**ABNCo = American Bank Note Company**

**NPM = National Postal Museum of the Smithsonian Institution**

Journal citations are *Journal Name*, **Volume No.**, Pages.

Anything without a byline is written by the Editor.



Zone, this was a mock election to give the disenfranchised Zonians a feel for the 1912 election (there were no absentee ballots at the time) [3]. The Progressive Party (Bull Moose Party) was started by Teddy Roosevelt when he felt that Taft betrayed the Republican's progressive program. In 1913, Bliss was appointed Postmaster at the Cristobal P.O. where he served until retiring in 1934, at which time he received the coveted Gold Roosevelt Medal No. 1075 for service during the construction days.

**Transcontinental Air Mail Flight:** Bliss was interested from the beginning in aviation and aerophilately. In 1918 he helped organize the first transcontinental air mail flight to raise money for Liberty Loan War Bonds [4]. The plane is shown in Fig. 2 and a First Nonstop Ocean to Ocean Aero Mail Service cover is shown in Fig. 3.

**In-transit Mail and the Pitcairn Islands:** During WWI the Cristobal Post Office under Bliss was responsible for the receipt and forwarding of all in-transit mail, and to censor all outgoing mail not previously censored [5].

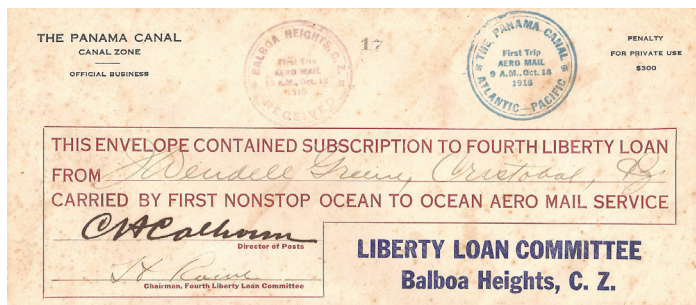


Fig. 3 WWI Liberty Loan Drive – Ocean to Ocean Flight

What was not widely known about Bliss was his impact on postal service to Pitcairn Island. In 1920, while having “refreshments” with ship captains at the Stranger’s Club in Colon, Bliss learned the Pacific voyage to New Zealand of one ship would take it near Pitcairn Island. Bliss had an in-



Fig. 4 Pitcairn Islands Stamp

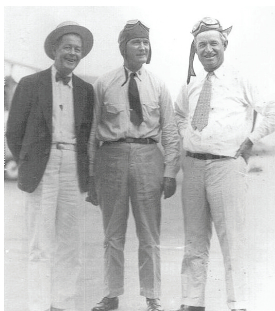


Fig. 5 Gerald Bliss, Alva Bernhard, and Will Rogers

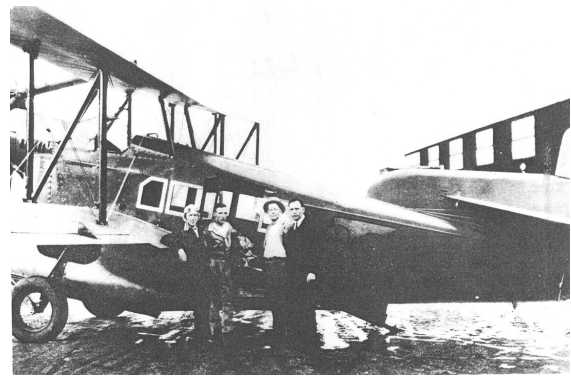


Fig. 6 Gerald Bliss third from left in front of Loening Air Yacht

transit letter from England addressed to Richard Christian on Pitcairn Island and asked if the captain would deliver it, which he did. Bliss then sent out word that he would service mail to Pitcairn for the quickest service. Thus began 14 years of service to Pitcairn. He and his wife, Mabelle Anna Hart Bliss, served as the island’s purchasing agents for more than a decade. They marketed Pitcairn handicrafts, and sent the islanders items they lacked, such as sewing materials, books, maps, and school supplies [6].

In 1940 Pitcairn began issuing its own postage stamps. In 2002 they issued a stamp honoring Gerald Bliss (Fig. 4). This was reported in the *CZP* in 2002 [7]. While searching for information on Gerald Bliss, I discovered a photo on the website of CZBrats [8] that was obviously the photo that was used to design the stamp. The picture shown in Fig. 5, taken on April 17, 1941, shows Bliss with Captain Alva Bernhard and folksy humorist Will Rogers (Bernhard later became skipper of the carrier USS *Lexington*, and was promoted to Rear Admiral, later to become the first commander of the Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet in 1943)[9].

**Additional Air Mail Flights:** Bliss was influential in



Fig. 7 Front of round-trip cover from Miami to Cristobal, with cachet and route map



Fig. 8 Reverse of round trip cover with autographs



helping to arrange a 1920 air mail flight from the Canal Zone to Washington, DC, via Jamaica, Havana, and Miami. It was to be flown in the Army DeHavilland DH-4 aircraft – an open cockpit biplane. Coincidentally that same day the Navy was flying two Curtiss Model F5L Seaplanes – also open cockpit biplanes – to Jamaica. Unfortunately, a fierce rain storm forced all planes back to Cristobal [10].

In late 1928, Costa Rica suffered torrential downpours that created landslides, putting the railroad out of commission between the port of Punta Arenas and San José. An emergency flight was arranged. Gerald Bliss swore in an Army pilot authorizing him to carry mail, and saw him off as seen in Fig. 6. Note Bliss is in his ubiquitous bow tie and straw hat. The Loening Air Yacht depicted in the figure reached San José, but crashed on the return take-off due to the 4000' altitude, and a sudden downdraft. The plane, only a few days old, was a total loss, but no one was killed [11].

Bliss helped arrange the first air mail flights by Lindbergh in 1929. A cover shown in Figs. 7 and 8 was flown from Miami to Cristobal and back again by Lindbergh in a Sikorsky S-38. It was signed on the reverse by Bliss, Lindbergh, and Otto Pittman, the Miami Postmaster.

A letter in the possession of Armand Coté, a specialist in Canal Zone First Flights, illustrates Bliss' generosity and endeavors to promote aerophilately. The letter was to a collector who was having a bundle of envelopes sent from Miami to be serviced on Lindbergh's first return flight from Cristobal to Miami. The letter advises the collectors that the envelopes had not arrived in time for the flight, and Bliss wrote, "We have taken the liberty of providing and addressing the same number of our official air mail stamped envelopes, which will go forward on this flight." He goes on to say the additional cost of \$1.05 should be remitted to the Postmaster when convenient.

**Conclusion:** Gerald Bliss was a dynamic, generous person, often in the limelight with notable people. Robert Karrer referred to him as "the publicity-seeking Cristobal Postmaster Gerald D. Bliss, who was a well-known stamp collector and part-time dealer with contacts...in the United States at home and abroad"[10]. Arthur H. Sapp said of him, "Gerald Bliss knows more people than the Prince of Wales" [12].

Gerald Bliss, like Bernhard, was a Rotarian. In a 1928 issue of their house organ, Arthur H. Sapp, then President of

Rotary International, wrote an article about a one and a half hour trans-Isthmian round trip flight arranged by Gerald Bliss. They flew in Martin NBS1 open-cockpit bombers from France Field [12].

Sapp mentioned that Bliss drove a diminutive automobile, which he called "The Spirit of St. Vitus" *a la* Charles Lindbergh. Bliss first met Lindbergh when he conducted his Latin American Goodwill Tour in 1928. It was that year that my father, Paul A. Bentz, was appointed to go to the Zone to codify the Canal Zone laws. I recently discovered a 1928 letter from the Editor of West Publishing Company of St. Paul, Minnesota (his previous employer) with this postscript: "If during your travels in the Zone you run across an old friend of mine, Mr. Gerald Bliss, convey to him my best regards and tell him if business or pleasure bring him to St. Paul I will hope to see him. I know you will find him a very fine chap and with a very interesting family."

It is clear from the foregoing that Gerald Bliss led a very productive and interesting life. His generosity was further attested to by the issuance of the Pitcairn stamp in his honor. Ada Christian summed up the feelings about the efforts of the Blisses to see that mail got to the Pitcairn Islanders: "Don't blame us if we think you are our best friends. If Mr. Bliss had not done for us what he is doing, we would hear from our friends and relatives once in a year and even longer than that. May God bless and prosper you in all your work, is the wish of a sincere friend" [6].

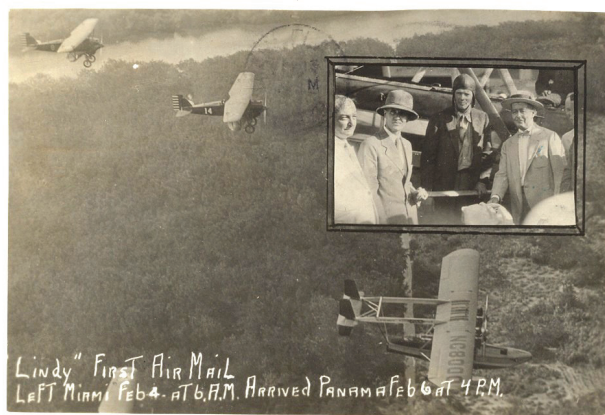
On May 1, 1930, because of the advances in aviation, Pan American Airways inaugurated a new route to the Canal Zone via Havana, Cuba and Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua with a 33-hour schedule. In anticipation of this, Gerald Bliss wrote Mr. J.M. Eaton, General Traffic Manager of Pan American Airways, a lengthy letter the gist of which was summarized in the first sentence: "This is so significant that I cannot resist addressing you a brief note of the writer's impression of the history made, and in the making, in the rapid transmission of the written communication [13]."

#### Acknowledgement:

The author wishes to acknowledge helpful information kindly provided by Emily J. Bliss, the widow of Curtis Bliss, Gerald Bliss' son.

#### Bibliography:

1. "The Bliss Postage Due Provisionals Reviewed," by Paul Kravitz, *CZP* 31(3): 21-24 (1995).
2. Photo from the George Brett Archives, submitted by Richard Bates, from a scan by Jim O'Donnell courtesy of Cheryl Ganz, National Postal Museum of the Smithsonian.
3. Donald Humphrey, Gerald Bliss' grandson (private communication).
4. "First Ocean to Ocean Flight" by Gilbert N. Plass, *CZP* 14(4):1,26-27 (1978).
5. "Canal Zone World War I Censorship" by Julius Grigore, Jr., *CZP* 38(1):1 (2002).
6. "Canal Zone Postmaster Honored on Pitcairn Island Stamp," by Curtis Hart Bliss, *Canal Record*, December 2002.
7. "Gerald Bliss Pitcairn Stamp," *CZP* 38(1):11 (2002).
8. CZBrats website, <http://www.czbrats.com/photos/PO/postoffices.htm>
9. Navy Department Library website, [http://www.history.navy.mil/library/guides/rosters/airforce\\_atl.htm](http://www.history.navy.mil/library/guides/rosters/airforce_atl.htm)
10. "The Aborted 1920 Airmail Flight" by Robert J. Karrer, Jr., *CZP* 31(4):33(1995), and 32(1):5-7 (1996).
11. "Canal Zone to Costa Rica Flights" by Alan P. Bentz, *Air Post Journal* 78:112-117, 119-122 (2007).
12. "In Sixty-Five Minutes – From the Atlantic to the Pacific and Back Again," by Arthur A. Sapp, *The Rotarian* 32(5):22 (May 1928).
13. "History in the Making' – Bliss" by David Alan, *CZP* 39(3):30 (1999).



**Fig. 9 Lindbergh's arrival with Crede Calhoun, Director of Posts, on his right and Gerald Bliss on the his left. Lindbergh's Sikorsky S-38 at lower right is shown being escorted by Army pursuit planes.**



## **Destruction of Canal Zone Stamps** by Richard H. Salz and Richard D. Bates, Jr.

The destruction of Canal Zone stamps in 1980 at the end of the era of the Canal Zone Postal Service was not the only time in its history that stamps were destroyed. "A destruction of Canal Zone stamps ... took place on August 14 and 17, 1937," according to Judge Edward Tatelman's book *Canal Zone Postage Stamps*. In addition, a huge number of overprinted U.S. stamps (Scott Nos. 4-8) received in the Canal Zone in 1904 were destroyed by burning in 1905. (See *CZP* 25:15,16, which includes a photo of the bonfire.)

The 1980 event is summarized in the article in *The Panama Canal Spillway*, Vol. XVIII, No. 26, March 7, 1980, describing the destruction of the remaining postage stamps after the era of the Canal Zone Postal Service ended.

### **Destruction of millions of stamps is *coup de grace* for C.Z. Postal Service by Fannie P. Hernandez**

A pile of light grey dust is all that's left of 22 parcel post sackfuls of Canal Zone stamps that were destroyed by the Canal Commission last week, adding another historical footnote to the Treaty of 1977. The face value of the postal stamps was \$1.1 million and the philatelic worth, approximately \$4 million.

The destruction of the Canal Zone postal stamps was the *coup de grace* to the dissolution of the Canal Zone Postal Service, whose colorful and unique history dates back to 1904 and parallels the history of the Panama Canal.

As work progressed in the construction of the Canal and work sites were shifted, so were the post offices that served the workers. Through the years, the stamp issues vividly reflected the early hardships, the failures and the magnificent completion of the waterway. Canal Zone postal stamps have depicted the members of the Isthmian Canal Commission and other people and buildings and equipment that have played an important role in the construction and operation of the Canal: the Administration Building; Goethals Memorial; Fort San Lorenzo; and the dipper dredge *Cascadas*. There were commemorative and anniversary stamps and special stamps recognizing world effort against malaria and many other stamps that made Canal Zone stamps world famous.

When the Canal Zone Postal Service was dissolved on October 1, 1979, an inventory of stamp stocks was made by the General Audit Division and the Administrative Services Division. The excess stamps were placed in 22 parcel post sacks and sealed. The sacks containing the stamps (weighing between 100 and 150 pounds each) and 14 sacks full of Canal Zone Postal Service miscellaneous accountable forms, including money order and box rental forms and postal savings certificates, and postal history books and U.S. postal stamps had been in the custody of the Administrative Services Division secured in the Treasurer's vault in the Administration Building.

Early last week, the sacks of stamps were moved from the vault under safeguarded conditions to a concrete building in Albrook AFS and fed into a Jay Bee Disintegrator by Eddy Smith, supervisor of the Commission's Postal Assistance Unit, who was the custodian of the precious cargo.

Wearing ear protectors and nose mask because the electric powered machine is noisy and generates a fair amount of dust, Smith broke open the packages of stamps and began the tedious process of continuously feeding

stamps by the sheet, booklet and roll, and postal cards into a receptacle at the front of the machine. The stamps were carried by a conveyor belt into a blade chamber where they were pulverized. In the next step, the powder was suctioned from the destruction chamber and passing through a vent pipe went down into the refuse sack that was securely tied to the end of the vent. It took approximately one hour and a half to destroy one bag of stamps worth \$50,000. Three to four sackfuls were destroyed each day. Commission auditors Frank Masters and Gene Blackford were present at all times to certify the destruction of the postal stamps.

The stamps were destroyed because the dissolution of the Canal Zone Postal Service made them obsolete and because it was in accordance with long term U.S. postal policy. It was also the ethical thing to do after philatelists throughout the world had been notified that the stamps would no longer be available.

Representative sheets of Canal Zone postal stamps had already been set aside to be presented to the Smithsonian Institution for retention and display purposes for the benefit of present day public and for future generations.

The miscellaneous forms were also destroyed and the postal history books and U.S. stamps were turned over to the Administrative Services Division. The books will be sold and the U.S. stamps will be for Commission official use. All Canal Zone postal stationery had previously been destroyed by shredding at the printing plant in La Boca.

The large number of leftover stamps resulted from the fact that the C.Z. Postal Service could not order less than 200,000 stamps for a single printing, as this is the minimum order accepted by the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington, D.C.

In July 1979, the Canal Zone Postal Service advised philatelic patrons around the world that the Canal Zone Postal Service would be closing its operation and stamp collectors who wished to order Canal Zone stamps had until August 15, 1979 to send in their orders.

The response from stamp collectors, both worldwide and locally, was overwhelming.

The history making event this past week was not the first time that Canal Zone stamps have been destroyed. According to information in Judge Edward Tatelman's book *Canal Zone Postage Stamps*, a destruction of Canal Zone stamps took place on August 14 and 17, 1937.

When the United States began furnishing the Canal Zone its postage stamps, the Government of Panama, which had been supplying the stamps, was left with a large amount of unused postage overprinted with the words "Canal Zone." After receiving payment for them, Panama turned over to the Canal Zone cases of the excess mint postage stamps, postal cards, and envelopes in their original packaging. Their face value was \$407,568.19. Part of the stamps was burned in the Gorgas Hospital Crematory and part in the annealing oven in the Mechanical Division in Balboa.

Last week's destruction of Canal Zone stamps closes one of the most interesting histories in the annals of the stamp world. It will also increase the value of all existing Canal Zone stamps.

In addition, a specialized destruction took place in 1966 when copies of the missing bridge stamp (No. 157a) from one pane that had been broken up were destroyed. Another pane remained in the hands of Henry Harris. This pane is the source of copies of 157a available on the market today. Correspondence regarding this destruction can be found in the files of the Smithsonian National Postal Museum.

More on this destruction and the destruction of booklet panes in 1937 will appear in a future issue.



## Opinion: “What is It?” Or “Is it a ... ?”

by Richard D. Bates, Jr. and Gary B. Weiss

Occasionally we are asked “What is it?” or “Is it a . . . ?” with regard to a particular variety or potential variety. The questions are similar, and may have similar, though not identical, answers. The first may be answered by explaining how the particular variety in question came about, while the second seeks assurance that the stamp qualifies as a particular variety. Quite often, stamps with shifted overprints are on the edge between 1) being a recognized example of a particular variety listed in the *Scott Catalogue*, or 2) coming close to but not quite satisfying the criteria to be a major variety, and may be listed as minor varieties in the *CZ Stamps Check List* but not in *Scott*. These shifted overprints are the subject of this discussion.

In particular, this article continues the discussion (from *CZP* 45:30-1, 39) of overprint varieties that arise on Scott No. 91, the 17c Wilson in the series of flat plate stamps with the sharp A overprint. Specifically, it examines examples of Scott No. 91b, the “CANAL” only variety of this stamp. The discussion also involves a similar variety that arises on Scott No. 86f with an overprint that reads “ZONE” only.

To illustrate, consider the block of four of No. 91 shown in Fig. 1. This was illustrated in the previous analysis of



Fig. 1 Block of four containing 91b(UL), 91c(LL), and two copies of 91 with split overprints, CZSG 91.4

varieties of No. 91 in the 4th Q 2009 issue referred to above. This block of four is from the top two rows of an UL pane. The example has the overprint shifted downward so that the UL stamp has the overprint reading “CANAL” only. The stamp is a clear example of 91b, “CANAL” only as listed by *Scott*, as the CANAL in the overprint is in the middle of the stamp and there is *no* trace of ZONE or even any part of ZONE anywhere on the stamp. That follows the guidelines established by Canal Zone philatelists decades ago, and summarized by the statement on pages 156-7 of *CZ Stamps*, “There should be *no* trace of ZONE on the perforations at either the top or bottom of a stamp for it to be a CANAL only, as [stamps with traces of ZONE] are split overprints.” Thus, the UL stamp in the block is a clear example of 91b “CANAL” only. Likewise, the BL stamp in the block is also fairly unambiguous in being characterized as 91c, the “ZONE CANAL” overprint variety, also a major variety listed in *Scott*. There is a ZONE at the top, entirely on the stamp, and no trace of any ZONE at the bottom.

The focus of this article is the other two stamps in the block, and others like them, as they pose a difficulty. Normally one might expect that all the stamps in the top row on that particular pane would have the CANAL only

variety, and all the stamps in the second row would be the ZONE CANAL variety. But on the stamps at right in the block, the perfs split the ZONE. Part of it appears on the bottom of the UR stamp, and part of a second ZONE is also on the bottom of the BR stamp. The UR stamp has CANAL with a little bit of ZONE at the bottom. The authors agree with the classic guidelines that disqualify a stamp as the variety if it has just the tiniest bit of ink on the perfs. Both of these stamps are described as shifted overprints split by the perfs, and neither is considered to be either of the *Scott* listed varieties 91b or 91c.

The problem that is the subject of this discussion arises in Fig. 2. This is a very attractive plate number single of No. 91



Fig. 2 Plate number single with overprint appearing to read “CANAL” only

that appears to have only the CANAL part of the overprint, with the ZONE shifted down off the stamp. Careful examination of the bottom perf tips of the stamp, however, reveals a tiny bit of red ink from ZONE, as illustrated in the expanded view in Fig. 3.

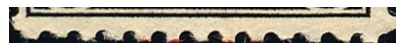


Fig. 3 Expanded view of the bottom of the stamp in Fig. 2 showing traces of red ink on several of the tips of the bottom perfs

The question is whether this stamp should be considered as a copy of 91b, “CANAL” only. There really is no question as to how it came into being. It is an example of No. 91 from the top row of an UL pane (only left panes were overprinted), with the overprint shifted downward so that the ZONE is off, or very nearly off the stamp. It is highly likely that this stamp is from the same pane (it has the correct plate number) that gave rise to the recognized copies of 91b, but that the overprint was not shifted sufficiently to be entirely off the stamp. It is like the UR copy in the block in Fig. 1, but in that case a good portion of the ZONE is on the perf tips. In the stamp in Fig. 2, as shown in the expanded copy in Fig. 3, the red ink just barely shows.

However, how this stamp came into being is not the only question that is asked. Instead, the question often is whether the stamp qualifies to be certified as a 91b. In this case, the problem becomes more difficult because a tiny bit of trimming of the bottom perf tips would, if the stamp had not been seen prior to that “adjustment,” create a copy devoid of any ZONE overprint, and thus more likely to be certified as a 91b. In fact, had the stamp below the copy shown in Fig. 2 remained attached, it is more likely the stamp in Fig. 2 would have been certified as a 91b.

If one is tempted to certify the example in Fig. 2 as being a legitimate 91b, because the red ink from the ZONE on the perf tips can only be seen with a magnifying glass, then does



the UR stamp in the block in Fig. 1 qualify too? If no, then how much is enough to disqualify it? Again the authors are drawn back to the historical precedent that *any* red ink on the perf tips is disqualifying.

An alternate approach to certifying a stamp as a variety is to consider that the catalogue description identifies the way the variety arose, and to certify the stamp as that variety if it came from that group of stamps. For example, the listing for 91b in the Check List in *CZ Stamps* states, “CANAL only, 1P (11),” which means first printing, 11 known copies. (The 11th copy is one with SE at bottom and “CANAL only” due to a foldover.) The text states, “On an UL pane with plate number 18021 the overprint was shifted downward resulting in CANAL only...on the first or top horizontal row, and ZONE CANAL on the rest of stamps [in the pane].” Thus to be a 91b it should be one of those 10 stamps from the top row. But that creates its own problems. If the stamp in Fig. 2 is certifiable as a 91b because it is from the top row of the pane that produced the 91b errors, by that criterion both stamps in the top row in Fig. 1 would be valid copies of 91b.

This is not a simple academic discussion, as there are major financial consequences. The two stamps on the left in Fig. 1 have catalogue values of \$1700 and \$300; the split overprints on the right are desirable but not nearly as valuable, though the UR variety is more desirable than the LR. Prices for split overprints have not been standardized and values are difficult to estimate. The stamp in Fig. 2 was sold at auction but was returned when the stamp was not certified by APES as a 91b.

There are additional complexities regarding split overprints. Fig. 4 shows a pair in which the bottom stamp is 86f “ZONE



**Fig. 4** Pair containing a copy of 86e and a copy of 86f



**Fig. 5** Block of 86 with overprint shifted upward and at a slight angle

only”, and the upper stamp is 86e with the overprint reading ZONE CANAL. These are well-characterized varieties which occurred on one pane of the second printing of No. 86. The bottom row received only ZONE, and these are the 10 possible copies of 86f as indicated in *Scott*. The copies from rows 1 through 9 have the overprint reading ZONE CANAL, and constitute the 90 copies of 86e indicated in *Scott*.

The problem comes with the block shown in Fig. 5. This is not from the pane generally agreed to have produced 86e and 86f, but is instead from a pane with the overprint at a slight angle. What gave rise to the block is clear enough. But

what to call each stamp in the block is less clear. The UR stamp obviously fails to pass as a ZONE CANAL overprint, as part of the ZONE appears at both the top and the bottom of the stamp. The LL stamp has the ZONE entirely on the bottom stamp. If certifying a stamp as an 86f ZONE only means certifying that it came from the bottom row of a lower pane on which the overprint is shifted upward (but implying it is not at an angle) so that only ZONE remains on the stamp, none of the stamps in this block fits, because none is from the pane with the overprint shifted upward but not at an angle. But the LL stamp in pos. 91 does match the 86f description, as it has no CANAL anywhere and the ZONE is entirely on the stamp. Can it legitimately be called an 86f? The answer is “Yes” if one goes by the “ZONE only” description, but “No” if one follows the criteria set by *Scott* and *CZ Stamps*, because it came a different pane on which the overprint is at an angle. Likewise, the LR stamp has no trace of the CANAL part of the overprint, as it has been shifted onto the stamp above it, and can be labeled “ZONE only.” That the ZONE touches the perfs is unlike the case of the 91 in Fig. 2 where the split causes part of the ZONE to remain with the CANAL, so that all or some of both words, CANAL and ZONE, are on the stamp. In the examples in Fig. 5 the CANAL is way up on the stamp above. It clearly is a “CANAL-less” ZONE, even if one adds a clarifier that only part of the ZONE is present on the stamp.

The authors believe that both bottom stamps in the block in Fig. 5 qualify as Scott No. 86f, and that the quantities of 86f should be considered to exceed the 10 indicated in *Scott* and *CZ Stamps*. Others may disagree with that opinion. The fact that the ZONE may be split by the top perfs, as is the case for the BR stamp, is immaterial to the determination that this stamp has no trace of any CANAL. Defining a new variety for stamps from the bottom row of panes with the overprint at an angle is cumbersome. It is simplest to recognize them as 86f, recognizing that 86f can come from two sources which can be distinguished in the *CZ Stamps* Check List, one with the overprint shifted up and not at an angle, the other from the bottom row of a pane with the overprint at an angle with the ZONE possibly split by the perfs at top. There is precedent for varieties that arise because the overprint is at an angle. Copies of 86h arise that way, and only that way; *CZ Stamps* on p. 151 presents a similar argument that there are two sources of 86c “ZONE CANAL”, the second group being from blocks containing 86h. Precedent exists for errors with a given Scott major number arising in more than one way: for example, 91b can arise in two ways, the second being a SE stamp from the bottom row of an UL pane. Readers should note that one must be cautious as copies are doctored to appear to be CANAL only by trimming the SE at bottom, or the perfs at top. In the latter case, the perfs at the top often appear nibbed.

It is probable that there is no simple one-size-fits-all answer to the questions raised here. Certification that an example qualifies as a particular *Scott* number works most of the time, but there needs to be some *Scott* or *CZSG* number to assign to the stamp, even if it means expanding the criteria for how a particular variety originates. Strict adherence to the criterion of how the variety was created brings its own problems. Alternatively accurate description may require either a new Scott-listed variety or at least a separate *CZSG* number. In some cases, however, justice to the stamp can only be had by clear descriptions of the origin of the variety.



## Red Cross POW Cover

continued from page 1

The ICRC website (<http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/misc/57jqgr.htm>) says, "In October 1914, after the opening battles of the war in which many prisoners were taken, the ICRC opened its International Agency in Geneva; during the conflict it listed almost five million POWs, visited many of them and enabled families to send relief parcels." The President of the ICRC, Gustave Ador, issued a circular announcing the establishment of the International Agency, whose task was to centralize information and organize the dispatch of gifts to prisoners of war. The circular also stated that the Agency would classify incoming tracing requests and send copies to the National Societies of the Detaining Powers so as to ascertain where the individuals sought were being held.

The archives at the Musée International de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge (International Red Cross Museum) in Geneva are being restored and digitized and will be accessible to the public without the risk of damage by repeated handling. Requests for information on persons who were victims of armed conflict during the 20th century can be submitted to the ICRC through its website (<http://www.icrc.org/eng/contact-archives>). The marking in the lower left of the front of the cover might be read to imply that that cover was sold by the ICRC.

Thanks to Kevin Lowther for information about the ICRC, and to Yvonne Sabban for help with the French. Please contact your Editor or Irwin directly if you have any further information to provide.

### Winners

A six-frame exhibit of Canal Zone by Bob Radley was awarded a vermeil medal at the 2010 Canberra Philatelic Exhibit, held in the Australian Capital Territory.

### Show Schedule – 2011 and beyond

#### Upcoming CZSG Meetings

**WESTPEX** San Francisco, CA 1 PM, Sat, Apr 30, 2011

#### As a Guest/Sponsoring Society

**NOJEX** Secaucus, NJ 1 PM, May 28, 2011

**WESTPEX** San Francisco, CA April 2014

Buy Sell Appraisals

## Larry Weinstock

### Specializing in:

Air Mail, Canal Zone, BNA, U.S. & Older World-Wide  
Stamps & Covers

Member of:

**AAMS APS ASDA CZSG NSDA**

P.O. Box 92033 • Portland, OR 97292-2033

(503) 762-4116 (503) 762-4118 (Fax)

lwstampsandcovers@comcast.net

## Special Auction Report

by Jim Crumpacker

The west coast auction firm Harmer-Schau Auction Galleries, Inc. offered on Jan. 28, 2011, the Dr. Albert L. Jackson collection of Canal Zone. This consisted of 363 lots in a separate catalog and represented a good mix of postal history, stamps including many blocks and plate blocks, and postal stationery. While realizations were on the low side, the overall sale was partially saved by decent prices on some of the many errors and CZSG-listed varieties.

The first price given below with the descriptions is the hammer price including the 15% commission. The other price, in parentheses, is the value from the 2011 *Scott Catalogue*.

- 1 F on F ppc Bohio 6/30/04 to Colon \$1188 (\$1650)
- 2a CANAL ZONE inverted, dull OG, H, VF \$460 (\$775)
- 6 pl. strip of 3 w/ imprint, #1885-L, dist. OG, HR, F \$242 (\$475)
- 14f rose brown, "8 cts" double, unused no gum as are most, barely F \$719 (\$1100)
- 23g inverted center and overprint reading up, tied on piece by Crist. 4/20/08 cancel, F \$14375 (\$6000)
- 32c bklt. pane of 6, 2 panes in cpl. bklt., dist. OG, F cover style A on salmon stock, CZSG 32c.3 \$805 (\$1750)
- 46d double overprint, one reads ZONE CANAL, TG, H, F \$1188 (\$2000)
- 67a ZONE CANAL reading down, dull OG, HR, barely F w/ additional CANAL on rt. selvage, CZSG 67a.1 \$489 (\$850)
- 80 pl. bl. of 6, #14042-T w/ "F", OG (very lightly dist.), NH, F-VF \$1783 (\$3000)
- 85a ZONE ZONE, F on F local cover Ancon 7/1/25 machine cancel \$633 (not listed)
- 86f ZONE only, dull OG, H, F margin copy \$1438 (\$2000)
- 97, pair, one w/o ovpt, 2 copies in the unique pl. bl. of 4, #18633-LL, dull OG, HR, VG \$3450 (\$6500+)
- 102a booklet pane of 6, handmade, this a cpl. bklt. of 2 panes CZSG 102a.1, OG, NH, F-VF \$9200 (\$13000)
- C2 pl. bl. of 6, #115182-T, dull OG, NH, VF \$489 (\$900)
- CO9 F w/ nat. se, on F penalty envelope Balboa 8/2/42 to Costa Rica \$403 (\$400)
- J3 pl. bl. of 6, w/ imprint and star, the only one extant, #6555-B, TG, HR, F \$8913 (\$9000)
- U3 mint entire, VF \$431 (\$700)
- UX6 mint entire, VF \$604 (\$1050)

Harmer-Schau Auction Galleries may be reached at 1333 N. McDowell Blvd., Suite B, Petaluma, CA 94954

## For Sale

### CANAL ZONE SPECIMENS

Irwin Gibbs

1699 El Camino Real, Suite 100

Millbrae, CA 94030

(650) 866-3757

## U. S. POSSESSIONS

(and the rest of the world, too)

Mention your collecting interests, and we'll  
send you our price list.

**LAWRENCE J. MOZIAN**

"a name associated with philately since 1901"

**P.O. Box 5774 • Williamsburg, VA 23188**



# Editorial: On the Value of Publishing Articles Even if They Are Corrections or Works in Progress

by Richard D., Bates, Jr.

Canal Zone collecting has been blessed by the publication of *CZ Stamps* by the Canal Zone Study Group in 1986. Though much of the text existed in a draft prepared in the 1940s and '50s by Dade and Schay, with monumental input from George Brett, *CZ Stamps* is the first reference that nearly everyone collecting Canal Zone material reaches for to find out about nearly all things Canal Zone related – from historical information, to printing processes, to number of copies of various printings, to specifics about varieties. Yet like any such reference work, it is a snapshot of what was known at the time it was prepared and/or published.

Sometimes I receive comments that ask why we would put in a follow-up to something that has already been published, or alternatively, why we would choose to publish an article when it is clear the work on the subject is not finished. The following should illustrate why I approach this the way I do.

The first example concerns publishing articles about things like new discoveries when our understanding of or information about them may be incomplete. An example is the article by Bob Karrer, "The Mysterious S.B. Cachets ..." in the 3rd Q 2010 issue (*CZP* 46:25,30-1). Even though we did not know the whole story, we chose to publish the article with a call for any information from *CZP* readers, hoping that information would help to complete the story. And guess what? At the November 2010 meeting in Chicago, member Dickson Preston told me that he had further information on the possible identity of S.B., prompting me to press him to complete the write-up he proposed, and get it to me. He did so, leading to the article in the 4th Q 2010 issue (*CZP* 46:37,45). That might never have happened if the first article had not appeared. So calling for information, or encouraging members to look through their holdings is, in my opinion, a quite correct thing for the *CZP* to do, and publishing any follow-on that pops up is just what we are in business to do.

As a second example, consider the story in *CZP* 46:7 about CZ No. 12 with right PANAMA 5 mm below bar and dropped 3rd A in right PANAMA. Member Geoff Brewster, one of the leading experts on No. 12 and its varieties, wondered why this merited inclusion in the *CZP*. The primary authoritative text *CZ Stamps*, of which Brewster is one of the coauthors, says, "early authors

report pos. 15 and 20 also exist with the third A dropped but this variety is not on record today and evidently does not exist." Thus this copy renders moot that comment in *CZ Stamps*. It may be true that a copy was discovered shortly after *CZ Stamps* was published, and it may be true that the existence of the stamp should be anticipated based on existing knowledge about how the varieties arise, but if it doesn't make it into print, the public is misled if *CZ Stamps* is relied on. I believe it is quite appropriate to make public this new information as if it is a new discovery. Expanding the knowledge base is crucial, and I believe informing readers about the best information we have available at any time is a primary role of a publication like the *CZP*.

As a further example, consider the articles I published about wrong font CANAL varieties in 2007 (*CZP* 43:29), describing the discovery of wrong font CANAL examples on the second printings of CZ 86 and J20. *CZ Stamps* says the wrong font varieties exist only on the first printing. Finding examples on the second printing obligates the press (yes, the *CZP* falls into that category) to make that knowledge public. The article in the *CZP* prompted extended searches for further examples by readers like Tom Brougham and the late Ed Pirovits, which helped to nail down the existence of the second printing wrong font CANAL variety on 86 and J20, and established that 86 with wrong font CANAL existed on both LL and LR panes. In 2008 Ed Pirovits emailed me to

*thank you for the articles you've written in CZP about the wrong font CANAL and ZONE varieties. Since your articles, I've acquired five CANALs and two ZONEs. I have two you might want to see, both J20.B from the 2nd overprinting. One is in a pair I bought on eBay and another in a used strip of three which I had in my collection. The latter was overlooked for years because I assumed that the thick overprints could not have the wrong font varieties. When your article appeared, I went through all my CZ US overprints and was very happily surprised.*

He said that the articles had set him vigorously on a path to search for additional copies and expressed his delight that his search produced additional examples both from his collection and elsewhere. Further for *CZP* readers, they enhanced the certainty of positions on which wrong fonts could be found.

So whether to stimulate further material to round out a story, to provide newer or corrected information on things already in print, or to prompt readers to search for examples that improve our understanding, I feel it is essential to publish articles presenting new finds, enhancing previously published pieces, and/or correcting or improving the existing knowledge base.

## Auctions

by Jim Crumpacker

As would be expected for the fourth quarter of any year there was limited Canal Zone philatelic auction action in the last three months of 2010. The firm of H.R. Harmer had a decent sale which included some early full panes, and other houses filled in with enough material to justify this report.

The initial dollar amount given below is the total of hammer price plus commission. The last price, in parentheses, is the catalog value from the 2010 *Scott Catalogue*.

- 15 TG, H, F \$1080 (\$2750) Spink Shreves
- 20 pane of 100 to include 20a, 20b, and minor vars., OG, about 80% NH, some trimmed perfs. and other flaws \$1416 (\$4720) H.R. Harmer
- 36b "10 cts." omitted, used, barely F with PF cert. \$184 (not priced used) Kelleher

- 46 OG, NH, VF \$156 (\$160) Spink Shreves
- 52b booklet pane of 6, TG, H, F \$230 (\$650) Kelleher
- 67 F, used on F ppc Balboa 3/8/24 to US \$304 (\$350) RegencySuperior
- 95 OG, NH, almost VF \$236 (\$275) H.R. Harmer
- O8 OG, H, CTO as always, \$390 (\$650) Spink Shreves
- UX6 mint entire, XF \$863 (\$1050) Kelleher

The names and addresses of the auction houses offering these lots are given below.

H.R. Harmer  
18061 Fitch  
Irvine, CA 92614

Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, LLC  
20 Walnut St.  
Suite 213  
Wellesley, MA 02481

RegencySuperior  
PO Box 8277  
St. Louis, MO 63156-8277

Spink Shreves Galleries  
3100 Monticello Ave.  
Suite 925  
Dallas, TX 75205

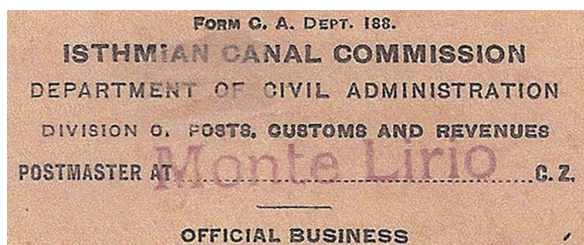
## New Monte Lirio Marking

A member has sent the scan in Fig. 1. It shows an important marking unlisted in *Entwistle*.



**Fig. 1 Cover back with Monte Lirio registered marking**

According to *Entwistle* there had been no registry markings reported for Monte Lirio. This one is on a piece of an official envelope addressed to the Treasurer, as illustrated by the corner card from the cover front shown in Fig. 2. The marking is like type Rg-14 and is dated June 21, 1913. The cover appears to enclose a deposit for postal sales.



**Fig. 2 Corner card from front of cover shown in Fig. 1**

## CZSG Regional Meeting at Chicagopex 2010

At the CZSG meeting at Chicagopex in Nov 2010, the agenda was dominated by a presentation to John Smith of a tool check from the Canal Zone in recognition for his more than 20 years of dedicated service as CZSG Secretary and a lecture by Gary Weiss on shifted overprints that read "ANAL.....C" or even just "ANAL ....."

The general discussion at the meeting included 1) displaying images of double transfers described in past or upcoming articles in the *CZP*, 2) the CZSG national meeting planned for NOJEX in May 2011, and 3) the possibility of a future CZSG meeting at a mid-west WSP show such as MILCOPAX, held in Wisconsin in September, as suggested by John Farkas.



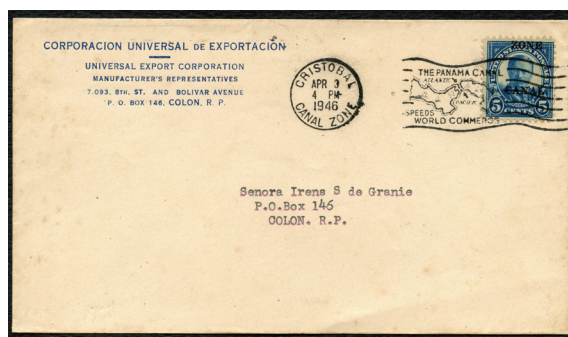
**Attendees: Front row - Glenn Staron, Dick Bates, Gary B. Weiss, William Sandrik; Back row - Dickson Preston, John H. Morrison, John Farkas, John Smith**

## Covers with Examples of ZONE CANAL Errors on Overprinted U.S. Stamps

by Gary B. Weiss and Richard D. Bates, Jr.

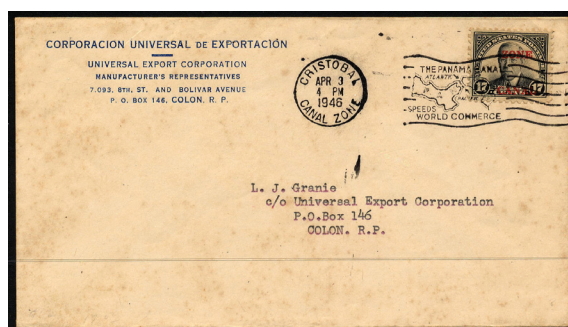
Covers with errors of U.S. stamps overprinted CANAL ZONE are very rarely encountered. Among the best known examples are 85a ZONE ZONE covers addressed to the Rodgers Stamp Co. An example was illustrated on page 147 of *CZ Stamps*. In addition, a small number of covers with 71a was prepared at the time of their discovery. One was illustrated on page 9 of the 2nd Q 2010 issue of the *CZP*.

The cover shown in Fig. 1 has a copy of 86e, the 5c Roosevelt with sharp A overprint reading ZONE CANAL, and has a 1946 postmark, considerably after the date on which the underlying stamp was issued and the variety presumably was found.



**Fig. 1 Scott 86e on 1946 cover with Universal Export Corporation address**

This observation became more interesting when compared with the cover with an example of 91c, the ZONE CANAL version of the 17c Wilson shown in Fig. 2. It, too, was from 1946, was postmarked in Cristobal at exactly the same time and date, had the same return address, and was sent to the the same P.O. Box in Colon (the same as the return address), and to an addressee with the same last name.



**Fig. 2 Scott 91c on a similar 1946 cover**

When first obtained, the 91c cover had prompted speculation about why the sender would have prepared this cover 20 years after the stamp was issued. Given the recent deliberations about the number of copies of 91c produced, perhaps an additional pane or more containing copies of 91c was discovered long after the initial determination of the likely number of copies produced was done, most likely by George Brett and his collaborators. However, the discovery of the nearly identical 86e cover diminishes the likelihood of that explanation, making the discovery in the 1940s of additional copies of 91c much less likely. Instead, it appears that the sender created the covers for some other unknown, at least as of now, purpose.



## Study Group News

### President's Report

David Zemer

P.O. Box 654 Skoeyen

NO-0214 Oslo, Norway

sosahill@hotmail.com

Given his importance to the philately of Colombia, Panama, and the Canal Zone, I am dedicating the President's report to summarizing Jim Cross' accomplishments. My only other message this quarter is to urge all members who can to attend NOJEX 2011 at the Meadowlands Crowne Plaza Hotel in Secaucus, NJ, on May 27-29. The CZSG will be a participating society with many exhibits on a wide range of Canal Zone topics and will hold a meeting on Saturday, May 28th at 1 PM.

#### James A. Cross 1928 - 2010

Jim Cross, CZSG member 1996, was born in La Crosse, Wisconsin, on December 21, 1928. He passed away on his birthday in San Diego, California, this past December after a battle with cancer. Jim started working for the post office after finishing high school and later joined the Army. He was soon assigned to the Canal Zone. While stationed there he met his first wife Luz Maria Caballero and together they raised six children. After he retired from the military he moved to San Diego where he ran the stamp dealership *Fil-Panam*.

Jim started collecting stamps in 1936 and began specializing in Latin America in 1958, narrowing it down to 19th century Colombia in the mid-1970s. He soon focused on Panama, including a strong interest in Canal Zone.

Jim was a driving force in founding The Colombia-Panama Philatelic Study Group (COPAPHIL) in 1983 and was instrumental in its success. For over 25 years Jim was Editor of the quarterly journal *COPACARTA* as well as Treasurer, and was their Mail Sale manager on several occasions.

He enjoyed researching and writing about the historical aspects of philately. Besides his innumerable contributions to *COPACARTA*, he published a well-researched series of articles on the 1000-day war (1899–1902). This war disrupted mail and stamp deliveries, and caused the U.S. to order its warships to dock at Colon and Panama City to protect the Panama Rail Road and American interests, a precursor of things to come in November 1903. Jim spent the last twenty years accumulating Panama postal markings and published *Panama Postal Markings 1758 – 1950* (based on research by Dr. Ernesto Arosemena and Lawson Entwistle).

In 1998 he helped lot the auction sale of the Helme Panama collection. To document a major portion of Panama's 1881-1906 postal history, Jim photocopied the complete collection of Dr. Helme's registered covers, which was published in 1998. Recently he had been assembling scans of the "Gems of Panama Philately" as well as exhibiting Panama airmails, the Panama 1924 Arms, and researching the same issue overprinted for the Canal Zone.

Jim was always eager to help anyone who had questions about Colombia, Panama, or Canal Zone philately. His enthusiasm, expert knowledge, and personality will be missed by everyone who knew or dealt with him.

## Secretary's Report

Mike Drabik

P.O. Box 281, Bolton MA 01740-0281

Email: czsgsecretary@gmail.com

I'd like to take this opportunity to say hello and introduce myself to all the members of the Canal Zone Study Group. My name is Mike Drabik and I'm sending this report from the cold and wintery Eastern part of Massachusetts where I live. I have been a member of the CZSG since July of 2004.

I was honored when my offer to be your new CZSG Secretary was accepted in November of last year. I'm looking forward to serving our organization to the best of my abilities and I'm in the process of getting familiar with all of my duties as your new Secretary with the assistance of John Smith and the other CZSG officers. All of your membership information has been successfully transferred to me and I have been receiving and recording your generous membership dues, which support our organization, into our master CZSG database. If I make a few mistakes or missteps at the outset, I'd like to ask for your patience and forgiveness.

I consider myself a junior member of the CZSG in age and knowledge. However my goal is to learn more from all of you about our shared hobby and be able to contribute to the CZSG so that we can continue to make it a great and growing organization that is dedicated to Canal Zone philately. I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year.

As of February 21, 2011, there are 511 CZSG members who have paid their 2011 membership dues. As of this date there are 81 members who are not current.

Please join me in welcoming our new members:

Donald Tribe, CZSG # 2635

William Wymer, CZSG # 2636

A.R. (Arnie) Lunsford, CZSG # 2637

Vernon Wilhelm von der Heydt, CZSG # 2638

We also welcome back:

Thomas Dorn, CZSG # 507

Dr. David Malinov, CZSG # 2362

We have been notified of changes of addresses for:

Melvin Adams, CZSG # 625

David Borghi, CZSG # 1003

Douglas Brusie, CZSG # 2081

Robert Eldridge, CZSG # 1743

John Huffman, CZSG # 2315

Dr. Mozuka Kozuka, CZSG # 2462

Howard Kristol, CZSG # 328

Michael Lake, CZSG # 2161

Stan Polchinski, CZSG # 2311

James Taggart, CZSG # 1593

The following have resigned from the CZSG:

Wallace Craig, CZSG # 1444

Bruce Elkin, CZSG # 228

Michael Feinstein, CZSG # 2471

Barbara Johnson, CZSG # 2455

Robert Markovits, CZSG # 374

Walter Merkel, CZSG # 220,

Wallace Rueckel, CZSG # 2305

John Schlitt, CZSG # 735

Ronald Sumner, CZSG # 2601

Joseph Webb, CZSG # 1379

Lastly it is with great sadness and condolences to their families that I recognize the passing of our fellow CZSG members:

William Conroy, CZSG # 795

Dr. Phillip Akers, CZSG # 1827

James Cross, CZSG # 1996

### WESTPEX 2011

Canal Zone Study  
Group Meeting  
San Francisco Airport  
Marriot Hotel  
Burlingame, CA  
1 PM Sat., April 30, 2011

### NOJEX 2011

Guest Society:  
Canal Zone Study Group  
CZSG National Meeting –  
1-3 PM., Sat., May 28, 2011  
Secaucus, NJ  
May 27-29, 2011

## AmeriStamp Expo 2011

The regional CZSG meeting held at AmeriStamp Expo 2011 in Charleston, SC, on February 12, 2011, was attended by seven members and one guest. Members were reminded of the role of the CZSG as a guest society at NOJEX 2011 in May, and members were encouraged to attend.



**Attendees:** Front Row: Fred Levantrosser, Gary Weiss, Len McMaster; Back row: Parker Bailey, Bob Karrer, Del Parker, Andy Rodriguez, Dick Bates

Bob Karrer convened the joint meeting of the CZSG and ICC. After all present introduced themselves and summarized their interests, Dick Bates observed that Bob Karrer's exhibit, "Charleston, South Carolina – The Confederate Period" was on display in the Court of Honor. He also showed a scan of the star plate block of CZ Scott No. 84 (illustrated on the first page of this issue) that includes examples of the newly reported shifted overprint – split ZONE on part of an UR pane.

Most of the meeting was dedicated to concerns about fakes on eBay and the difficulty in getting them taken down. Sellers do not always accept CZSG's opinions. Gary Weiss said sellers may have considerable money in the stamp, and their reluctance may be related to that.

Dick Bates gave a presentation using computer images of the characteristics of the genuine handstamp on CZ 1-3, contrasting them with examples of fakes. For a given stamp, a single failure of primary tests means the stamp cannot be genuine. For example, a stamp that seems to be a No. 1 but is on the wrong stamp of Panama cannot be good, no matter how many other characteristics may look okay. The incorrect stamp used by many who made fakes of No. 1 is one with the PANAMA overprint reading up and down, as opposed to the three possibilities of the genuine stamps: up and up on the top half of the pane, down and down on the bottom half, and the variety down and up found only on positions 1 and 100 of No. 1. If it is up and down, it is no good no matter how convincing the CANAL ZONE overprint may seem. Likewise, a stamp with the CANAL ZONE handstamp in black is no good. And finally, any overprint that is obviously the wrong size - typically too big - is no good, irrespective of other signs characteristic of a genuine stamp.

If the primary characteristics appear correct, then numerous secondary characteristics must be checked, taking into account the variations to be expected in the use of a handstamp, one that may have become less sharp with use.

The characteristics of known fake covers were also reviewed. Members present were urged to take on the task of working to identify whether the cancels on fake covers are also fakes or may be okay, which does not necessarily mean the cover went through the postal system.

## WANTED

**#12** Stages I, II, III, & IV  
CZSG Nos. 12.Aa, 12.Ab, 12.Ba,  
12.Bb, 12.C, 12.D, 12.Ea, & 12.Eb

**#13** Stages II & III  
CZSG Nos. 13.B, 13.C, & 13.D

Sheets and Blocks • Unused & Used Approvals accepted  
If you don't know CZSG No., I am happy to examine any item.

**Geoffrey Brewster**

6453 E STALLION RD. • PARADISE VALLEY AZ 85253

480-607-7184

## CANAL ZONE

Comprehensive Stock including singles, plate blocks,  
FDC's, FFC's, specimens, B.O.B., stationery, covers  
and paper memorabilia/books

**Send for free Detailed List  
or view at our Website**

**C&H Stamps**

P.O. Box 855 • Syracuse, NY 13214 [CZCD@twcny.rr.com](mailto:CZCD@twcny.rr.com)

Website: [www.CanalZoneStamps.Com](http://www.CanalZoneStamps.Com)

**CZSG APS USPPS**

~ Our 32nd Year ~

### Del Parker Hopes to See you Friday or Saturday at NOJEX



**CZ #15a 10 Possible  
Panama reading up & down in blk4 #15**

CZ #15, 15a Block of 4 50c Bister Brown,  
positions 1-2 and 11-12, with position 1 being  
the Panama reading up and down error, CZ  
#15a. Error Extremely Fine with large margins.  
Block tropicalized original gum. 1974 PF  
certificate. **\$12,500.**



**CZ # 32d One Known  
2c Vermilion & Blk Double O'Print**

The only copy ever found mint or used with the Canal Zone  
overprint doubled. Fine, Light cancel, pulled bottom perf.  
1986 APS certificate. **\$9,000.**



**CZ # 46c Two Known  
1c Green Zone Doubled**

Position 10, with fresh F-3843 corner selvage, being  
the more desirable of the two known from the one  
sheet this error occurred. The other copy, ex Plass,  
and Position 20 is with no selvage. Good Very Fine  
with original gum. 1983 APS certificate. **\$8,500.**

Additional Canal Zone materials for sale include:

Postage Due Covers	German WWI Camp Tabago POW Cover
Ship and Paquetboat Covers	Canal Zone First Day Covers
Radio Cards	Canal Zone Stamps and Sets
Palo Seco Leper Colony Cover	Canal Zone Used Stamps
Salz Official Collection and Covers	Canal Zone Stationery

Inquiries Solicited. Priced net to all.

**Del Parker** • P.O. Box 7568 • Dallas, TX 75209  
Phone: 206-963-2560 • Email: [irishcoins2000@hotmail.com](mailto:irishcoins2000@hotmail.com)  
**[www.DelParker.com](http://www.DelParker.com)**